

Dear Members of the 7-11 Committee,

I appreciate your time and efforts volunteering for this committee. I know it has been demanding. However, I must oppose your proposals for school closures. School closure is a complex issue that has serious legal and logistic consequences. It was unfair of the school district and board to require this type of analysis by the 7-11 Committee. You have been given several reasons for not closing a school but yet there are actually hundreds of important reasons not to close a school. I oppose the district shuffling hundreds of young children around. I oppose your proposal to change the boundary lines for the Heights and the Hills, as well as your recommendation to the district to no longer allow inter district transfers to the Heights and Hills. These children and their siblings have attended these schools for years. These families, as well as all the families on the west side of the district, will be heavily affected. Yet isn't most of the district's surplus space is in the Carmel Valley schools? The one reason to close a school is money, yet the community is not convinced that much money will be saved. Closing a successful school in an affluent district does not seem like a wise choice to balance a budget. I urge you to remove these controversial proposals from your list of recommendations to the school board. You should tell the board your findings are that the community is divided and you could not reach a consensus on school closure. Let these elected and paid officials figure out this very serious issue. They are the ones that will ultimately be accountable to the public for their decision.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Lasker

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